

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 10, 2002**

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**CONYERS ON GAO-CHENEY LAWSUIT DISMISSAL:
ANOTHER JUDICIAL FIX FOR BUSH-CHENEY ADMINISTRATION**

Congressman John Conyers, Jr. issued the following statement today regarding today's decision by the US District Court for the District of Columbia to dismiss the GAO lawsuit against the Cheney taskforce:

“Reading this decision, one cannot escape concluding that the fix was in. This decision is one of the most political court decisions since Bush v. Gore. Presiding over a case against the Bush-Cheney Administration, was a Bush-Cheney judicial appointee, who – as a deputy to Ken Starr – argued for Hillary Clinton’s release of the Rose Law Firm records.

“In denying Congress access to these records, Judge Bates likes to point out that no Comptroller General has ever sued the executive branch for records, but he ignores the fact that the Bush-Cheney Administration is the most secretive and uncooperative executive branch in history. In fact, this was the only Administration ever to deny access to its records, making the lawsuit the only recourse for the GAO. Judge Bates says Congress did not authorize the lawsuit, but ignores the fact that this lawsuit was the direct result of a request for information by Members of Congress.

“What makes it even more questionable is that, as a Whitewater prosecutor, Judge Bates did not believe the executive branch can keep secrets, but as an appointee of the very Administration being challenged in the lawsuit, the executive branch is suddenly untouchable. Partisanship has triumphed over the law.”

#JUD - 12/10/02#